

Norstad, Edwin

SECRET

November 3, 1955

MEMORANDUM

FILE

W.H.  
W.H.C.

4:30 PM

WED.

THIRTY

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: EUR - Roy D. Kohler

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Norstad on November 4 at Four O'clock p.m.

Discussion:

It is understood that the primary purpose of General Norstad's visit to Washington at this time is to discuss the question of possible curtailment in United States NATO-committed units and shortfalls in the Military Aid Program. General Norstad will have seen the President on the morning of November 4 to discuss these same questions. It is also likely that General Norstad would appreciate discussing with you the inspection proposal which he has advocated in the past and its relation to any forthcoming negotiations. He may also wish to discuss with you his views on the transfer of authority on nuclear weapons to NATO.

Recommendations:

The following points are suggested for discussion with General Norstad:

1. It is in our view essential that the military posture of the West remain strong in the period of negotiations we are now entering into. Any deterioration in the Western defense posture at this time would weaken our negotiating position with the Soviets on both major issues of Berlin and disarmament. For this reason, we are strongly opposed to any curtailment of United States NATO-committed forces. By the same token, we support adequate military assistance programs to ensure meeting NATO's minimum requirements.
2. At the same time, we are faced with a new situation in our economic relationship with Europe, as indicated by the present United States balance-of-payments deficit. However, this is essentially a long-term problem, and there are steps in many fields aside from the military which can alleviate the situation. We believe this long-term problem should be discussed with our Allies, and we are thinking of having this done by Secretary Anderson in the NATO Ministerial meeting in December.

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3. Any changes in United States NATO programs which may eventually be necessary should be worked into our position for the forthcoming negotiations with the Soviets.

*attached* 4. In this connection, General Norstad's proposal for an inspection zone in Central Europe could be one element in the Western position. Any comments General Norstad might have on the military effectiveness of such an inspection zone as a security substitute for some portion of United States forces in Europe would be most interesting to hear.

5. General Norstad's views on the transfer of authority for the use of nuclear weapons to NATO would also be of interest.

6. It is also suggested that you request General Norstad's views on the question of "Second Generation IRBM's", particularly the military requirement for this weapon and its priority relative to other NATO force requirements.

*GEN. NORSTAD will be accompanied by Mr. Fessenden  
and Mr. Fessenden,*

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cc: G - Mr. Merchant

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